

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, November 6, 2012 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members S. Carroll, F. Esposito, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger, Matt Palmer and K. Abbott, Chatham Township Committee liaison, and Mike Kelley, Mountain Avenue resident and former editor of the Independent Press.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2012 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has also been published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2012 AND JANUARY 2013.

Every first Tuesday (except no meeting in July) at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township Municipal Building: Second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012, first Tuesdays Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July no meeting, August 7 (cancelled), Sept. 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, and January 8 (second Tuesday), 2013.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from October 2, 2012 were not approved since not everyone had power and e-mail back on and so had not been able to review the documents.

GREEN TEAM MEETING

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair. Lou made good progress on the Green Checklist, Matt has some edits, will e-mail them to all CTEC members. Everyone will review the Checklist, e-mail edits to the whole commission and we will discuss more fully next time. Application for Bronze certification was submitted to Sustainable Jersey on September 23, 2012.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

CLOSED. Block 139, Lot 3.04, August 16, 2012, 62 Spring Valley Road. Application for LOI. Parcel is 2.6 acres of vacant land, almost entirely wetlands. NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

PENDING. T MOBILE NORTHEAST LLC, Block: 62, lots: 52 & 54. 7-19-12. Application to Board of Adjustment for temporary wireless communication tower and associated equipment. Tower will be constructed on the upper field at Esternay Field. NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

PENDING. Eveleth, 340 Lafayette Avenue, B 102.11, L 10.01. 3-14-12. Application to Board of Adjustment for variances to enlarge a house near a stream and wetlands. CTEC memo sent to Board of Adjustment suggesting applicant obtain an LOI. Applicant is now applying for an LOI. CTEC memo noting proximity of wetlands to site to NJDEP approved and sent.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison. Bhee application (Fairmount Avenue) regarding steep slopes could not be heard because of no power in much of the Township and will be rescheduled.

Open Space Committee report. S. Krishnan, Open Space Committee liaison. Joe Basralian, Chair of the Open Space Committee, is thinking about a Resiliency Plan for the Township. Passaic River flooding should be an item. Also landscape planting. People need a plan to minimize damage from future storms.

Communications and Website Committee report. F. Esposito, Chair. Frank put up on EC website all the items that Steve recently submitted for Sustainable Jersey recertification. Important to keep a record/archive of all work done and all items submitted for SJ. Township web site is being redesigned without input from CTEC. EC page may change. Township web site will be changed to .gov from .org. Hopefully a notice will appear on the main Township website that the regular recycling pickup will happen on schedule this Friday.

Recycling Committee report. The Township will be receiving two recycling awards at the rescheduled awards dinner, one for the Rocket Composter at the high school and one for the recycling video. Township Committee approved a recycling contract for next year with the Morris County MUA for pickup of recyclables.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Mike Kelly talked about his ideas for CTEC taking the lead on advising residents who have lost many trees on good types of replacement trees and possibly obtaining discounts for tree purchase from nearby or wholesale nurseries. Matt suggested making order forms available to residents and submitting bulk orders to wholesalers. Matt will find a pdf from the Master Gardener program listing desirable trees and their characteristics. The Chatham Township tree ordinance has a short list of recommended trees. If a Chatham Township Tree Committee becomes revitalized it could work with CTEC on tree programs. Janice and Pete Coviello might be interested in participating on a tree committee. Possible Arbor Day event - make order forms available then, advice on what trees are good and how to plant. Need multiple local companies to make order forms available and possible discounts in their establishments.
- CTEC will watch the area at Chatham Glen that will be empty after the package treatment plant is removed. Site for a community garden?
- NRI revision. The current draft is on the Township website. NRI Committee will hold another meeting soon. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, M. Palmer, D. Stillinger.
- CTEC will continue to ask for all plans to be in pdf instead of so many paper copies. Why does the Township require applicants to submit 25 paper copies of plans?
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.
- Identify a stormwater mitigation project to make use of funds in escrow account of East Park Builders, which is unable to meet its stormwater requirements on site on Mountainview Ave.
- Green Village Pond Conservation Area on Township property on Green Village Road. Open Space Committee is urging formal protection of the former Stoller parcel so the area will be eligible for grants. CTEC is pursuing cleanup and construction of a nature trail. D. Stillinger.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. In the area near the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge PSE&G is doing a good job of staying strictly within a 20 foot right-of-way and not disturbing vegetation or wetlands otherwise. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles.
- Consider subscribing to the DEP's news service. Go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel>

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- September 2012. Letter to NJDEP urging care in delineating wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01.
- July 2012. Letter to Passaic River Coalition supporting their proposed purchase of 4 parcels along the river. Letter to Township Committee urging denial of T-Mobile request to violate a conservation easement.
- June 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment urging protection of wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01. Memo to NJDEP urging protection of wetlands on Block 69, Lot 15.

EVENTS

- October 19, 2012, Friday. Passaic River Symposium V, "Today's Status, Tomorrow's Perspective", University Hall Conference Center, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ. <http://www.montclair.edu/csam/passaic-river-institute/conferences-symposiums/>. They will give CTEC a discount on the registration - we pay \$57.50.

- October 20, 2012, Saturday, ANJEC Environmental Congress. "The Clean Water Act at 40 - Keeping the Promise". 9am - 3:30pm, Middlesex County College, Edison. Governor Jim Florio, Keynote Speaker, NJDEP Commissioner, Bob Martin (invited) Featured Speaker. Usually about \$65 for ANJEC members, which we are.
- November 2, Friday. 25th Annual Recycling Awards Dinner, "Food for Thought: the Past, the Present, and the Future of Recycling. Hanover Manor, East Hanover, NJ.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Letter, 8-8-12, from BPU in response to CTEC letter concerning vegetation management along ROWs. BPU says that pesticide application is a matter for the DEP, not BPU. BPU says that when PSE&G notifies township that ROW maintenance will be done the township should raise any concerns, but the notification is so vague that it's not clear whom to contact or how or when.
- Notice, 8-23-12, of application of High Gate at Chatham (Gunn, Longview) to NJDEP for a Treatment Works Approval Permit for a sanitary sewer extension.
- Notice, 8-23-12, of application of Chatham Township to NJDEP for a Treatment Works Approval Permit to convert the Chatham Glen Wastewater Treatment Plant to a pumping station, to install a force main from Chatham Glen to existing gravity sanitary sewers in Fairmount Avenue, and to install a force main from WTP#1 on Tanglewood Lane to the Passaic River.
- Notice, 9-7-12, of application of Chatham Township to NJDEP for an Individual Flood Hazard Permit and wetlands General Permit to construct force mains as mentioned above.
- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN ABOUT 9:30 PM

Dot Stillinger, Chair